

**Advisory Committee Questionnaire**

1. Please list the committee(s) on which you have served during the past 5 years, the organization or constituency you've represented, and your years of service:

Committee	Organization/Constituency	Year Joined	Year Left

2. About what proportion of the meetings were you able to attend?
- (Almost) all
  - Half or more
  - Less than half
3. How would you rate the value of your advisory committee service? First, how would you rate the *effectiveness* of your work and that of your fellow committee members, in terms of being able to help the Census Bureau?
- Good value to most of the work
  - Good only on some selected issues
  - Fair to poor
  - Not useful at all
4. Second, how would you rate the value of your committee service to you and to the organization(s) or constituencies you represent?
- Good value to most of the work
  - Good only on some selected issues
  - Fair to poor
  - Not useful at all
5. We have some questions about the *format* of the meetings. First, what about the frequency of the meetings?
- Need to have more meetings, more often
  - Just about right as it is now
  - Don't need all the meetings that I'm asked to attend
6. What do you think about the overall length of meetings (1½ to 2 days)? We're referring here to the regular meetings of your committee, not the joint meetings.

- a. They are too long; one day would be enough
- b. The length of meetings is just about right
- c. Meetings need to be longer to accomplish what needs to be done

Comments:

7. Thinking about when your own committee is meeting in plenary session (all the groups together), would you say the number of committee members in those sessions is:

- a. Too large
- b. About right; size not a problem

Comments:

8. Are these plenary sessions a good format for presenting the types of reports usually included in them, or could the material be presented better another way? (Remember that for reports on current operations, materials prepared ahead of time may be somewhat out of date by the time of the meeting.)

- a. Like the oral/PowerPoint presentations at the meetings
- b. Would like to have the presentations in writing
- c. Would like to receive the information via email or the Web
- d. Would like a full presentation in writing, and a summary/update at the plenary session, so that there will be more time for questions and answers.

Comments:

9. What about the amount of time in the breakout sessions, to work on issues you're most interested in or with your own subgroup?

- a. Too much time allocated for breakouts
- b. The allocation of time is about right
- c. Not enough time for breakouts

Comments:

10. Have you participated in any *working groups* which have met outside of regular committee meetings, by conference call or in person?

- a. Yes
- b. No (SKIP TO Q 12)

(IF PARTICIPATED IN WORKING GROUP)

11. Do you find the working group format useful to accomplishing the advisory work?



- a. Yes, very useful
- b. Sometimes
- c. No, it hasn't been useful

Comments

(EVERYONE)

12. A suggestion has been put forth to create a series of smaller, focused working groups for each of the advisory committees. Each group would address a specific topic area related to the 2010 Census and/or the American Community Survey. If this suggestion is adopted, the number of formal, full committee meetings could be reduced. What do you think about this suggestion? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. I like the idea of accomplishing our work through a working group.
- b. I like the idea, but would likely want to participate in more than one group.
- c. Working groups are fine, but I don't like the idea of combining working groups from the various committees.
- d. I like the idea of the working groups, but I don't like the idea of having fewer full committee meetings.
- e. I think we should keep things the way they have been.

Comments:

13. You often receive materials ahead of time in preparation for the meetings. Would you say you usually...

- a. Read them pretty thoroughly
- b. Just skim them
- c. Don't have time to look at them at all

Comments:

14. Suggestions have been made for a web site, which would provide access to the agenda, papers, background papers, minutes and other communications for the committee. What do you think of this idea?
- a. Great idea, and a good substitute for all the paper materials
  - b. Good idea, but I still want the information mailed to me in hard copy
  - c. I would find it difficult to use a web site
  - d. I have no Internet access

15. What about the *recommendations* process? Would you say...

- a. I'm usually able to get my ideas through as recommendations
- b. There's not enough opportunity to make recommendations
- c. Other (please comment)

Comments:

16. What do you think about the way the Bureau (or the Commerce Department) handles recommendations?

- a. The Bureau (or Commerce) listens and tries to comply with recommendations when possible, within legal, budgetary and policy constraints.
- b. The Bureau's (or Commerce's) responses to recommendations are not always satisfactory to me.
- c. Other (please comment)

Comments:

17. How would you rate the value of *joint* meetings, where all the advisory committees come together to hear reports from the Bureau?

- a. They're good
- b. I don't like them: too large
- c. I don't like them: other reason (please explain below)

Comments:



18. How would you feel about receiving phone calls from Bureau staff, outside of meetings, to discuss issues and provide advice?
- a. Great idea: I'd be happy to participate in such discussions
  - b. I'm not interested in participating in the advisory committee process outside of meetings. (SKIP TO Q20)

(IF YES TO Q18)

19. What topic areas would be the most appropriate for you to make a contribution? (LIST BELOW)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

20. What is the best way to contact you outside of meetings? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. By telephone, one on one
- b. By telephone conference calls
- c. By email
- d. By fax
- e. By U.S. Postal Service mail

(EVERYONE)

21. The Census Bureau wants to maximize the Advisory Committee process, so that the Bureau can take the best advantage of members' expertise and best understand the views of the organizations or constituencies they represent. That's the purpose of this questionnaire. Please take this opportunity to comment on anything, not covered above, that relates to these goals.

22. Other comments:

Thank you very much! Please return to Patty Becker:

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